

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 HEW-04 PC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W

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R 101236Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7348

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CT, UR, SEDU

SUBJECT: NEW EDUCATIONAL DECREES ANNOUNCED

1. IN A SPEECH ON CENTRAL AFRICAN RADIO JULY 8, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ZEMONIAKO ANNOUNCED FOUR DECREES DESIGNED TO TIGHTEN UP CENTRAL AFRICAN

CONTROL OVER EXPATRIATE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY. BEFORE ANNOUNCING DECREES ZEMONIAKO STRONGLY CRITICIZED PAST COLONIAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY WHICH HE SAID WAS BASED ON FENELON'S DICTUM THAT "INSTRUCTION IN THE HANDS OF NEGROS IS TRULY A DANGEROUS WEAPON". THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALL SUCH ATTITUDES MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF THE CAR. CONSEQUENTLY HE ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT BOKASSA HAD SIGNED ON JUNE 6, FOUR DECREES, THE FIRST OF WHICH STATED THAT ALL CENTRAL AFRICANS TRAINED IN MEDICINE IN THE USSR WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN AN EQUIVALENT DIPLOMA ISSUED OR RECOGNIZED BY A FRENCH OR SWISS UNIVERSITY BEFORE THEY COULD TAKE UP THEIR MEDICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CAR.

2. THE SECOND DECREE STRONGLY FORBIDS ALL TEACHERS WHATEVER THEIR NATIONALITY AND POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS FROM TEACHING POLITICS OR IN ANY WAY CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT DECISIONS. ANY RESIDENT OF THE CAR, WHATEVER HIS

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NATIONALITY, WHO DOES NOT OBEY THIS DECREE WILL BE SUBJECT

TO IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL AND AT LEAST ONE YEAR IMPRISONMENT.
THE TWO REMAINING DECREES PROVIDE FOR REGULAR REPORTS TO THE
HEAD OF STATE ON SCHOLASTIC RESULTS AND AN ANNUAL REPORT TN
THE "MORALITY" OF EACH TEACHER WORKING IN THE CAR.

3. COMMENT: BOKASSA IS CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY
OF SOVIET TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. AT A DEGREE-
GIVING CEREMONY JULY 7, HE SHARPLY CRITICIZED DOCTORS WHO WERE
PERFORMING OPERATIONS CARELESSLY CITING SERIOUS SURGICAL ERRORS
WHICH HAD COME TO HIS ATTENTION. AUDIENCE IMMEDIATELY TOOK THIS TO
BE REFERENCE TO SOVIET DOCTORS WORKING IN THE CAR WHO ARE
WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE INSUFFICIENTLY QUALIFIED IN COMPARISON
TO THEIR FRENCH TRAINED COLLEAGUES. REQUIREMENT FOR A PARALLEL
FRENCH CERTIFICATION FOR SOVIET TRAINED AFRICAN DOCTORS
MAY HAVE THE RESULT OF SERIOUSLY LIMITING THE NUMBER OF CENTRAL
AFRICANS GOING TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR MEDICAL TRAINING.
PROHIBITION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS ALSO PRESUMABLY DIRECTED AT
SOVIET TEACHERS WHO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE DISTRIBUTED PROPAGANDA
PAMPHLETS IN RURAL AREAS. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT PEACE CORPS
TEACHERS ARE TARGETS OF THIS DECREE, BUT WE SHALL MAKE SURE AT FORTH-
COMING TRAINING SESSION CYCLE THAT MANY NEW PCV TEACHERS ARE AWARE
OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING ANY POLITCCAL ACTIVITIES OR COMMENTS
IN THEIR WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CAR CITIZENS.
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